

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

SS-15 HEW-02 AID-05 AGR-05 L-03 H-02 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 MEXICO 4890

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: MISSION MONTHLY NARCOTICS REVIEW APRIL, 1975.

REFS: A) MEXICO 3175; B) MEXICO 3434; C) MEXICO 3673; D)
MEXICO 3802; E) MEXICO 3450; F) MEXICO 3483; G) MEXICO 3781;
H) MEXICO 3778; I) MEXICO 3230; J) MEXICO 3161; K) MEXICO 3008;
L) MEXICO 3468; M) MEXICO 3574; N) MEXICO 4151

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CUSTOMS FOR CMSR. ACREE

SUMMARY: APRIL SAW THE WINDING DOWN AND VIRTUAL TERMINATION OF THE INTENSIFIED ERADICATION CAMPAIGN IN THE NORTH. THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLES ON MEXICO'S NARCOTICS TRAFFIC IRRITATED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. FOUR BELL COMPANY CONTRACT EMPLOYEES ARRIVED TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY PROGRAM. DISTRIBUTION OF US-SUPPLIED ARMS REMAINED A SERIOUS LOGISTICAL PROBLEM. AMBASSADOR JOVA VISITED DEA OFFICES IN EL PASO. WE SUPPLIED INFORMATION FOR THE FY 76 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION. THE AMBASSADOR APPROVED PLANS FOR A NEW NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE UNIT, AND PROMULGATED GUIDELINES FOR DEA OPERATIONS IN MEXICO. THE MEXICAN PRESS PUBLICIZED THE CALIFORNIA INTELLIGENCE NET MEETING IN SAN DIEGO, WHERE THE GOM NARCOTICS EFFORT WAS RECOGNIZED AND PRAISED. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OPENED SOME NEW OFFICES FOR THE PROCURADURIA AND DOMESTIC DRUG ABUSE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE. IN SEIZURES, HEROIN AND COCAINE WERE TRIPLE THE MARCH TOTALS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY AND GOM ACTIVITIES

A. OPERATION CLEARVIEW/SEAM 75 (THE INTENSIFIED ERADICATION CAMPAIGN) WOUND DOWN IN APRIL AND BY MONTH'S END ALL MEXICAN FEDERAL POLICE PERSONNEL HAD BEEN BROUGHT DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS AND CONCENTRATED IN THE MAJOR CITIES OF SINALOA. IN ALL, OVER 13 MILLION SQ. METERS (ABOUT 3,500 ACRES) OF POPPIES HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY THE END OF APRIL. FOR MORE DETAILS OF THE CAMPAIGN'S PROBLEMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS, SEE MEXICO 3175, MEXICO 3434, MEXICO 3673 AND MEXICO 3802.

B. THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS STRONGLY CONCERNED OVER THE FIRST ARTICLE IN A FOUR-PART SERIES BY NEW YORK TIMES MAN NICHOLAS GAGE. DEALING WITH THE MEXICAN HEROIN PROBLEM, THE ARTICLE ALLEGED THAT USG HAS LIST OF 70 MEXICAN "BIG FISH" NARCOTIC TRAFFICKERS, INCLUDING ONE HIGH GOM OFFICIAL. THE AG WAS SO IRRITATED THAT HE CALLED A SPECIAL PRESS CONFERENCE TO REFUTE THE ALLEGATIONS AND TO REQUEST THAT THE USG IN EFFECT "PUT UP OR SHUT UP." (SEE MEXICO 3450, MEXICO 3483 AND MEXICO 3781.)

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C. ASSIGNED UNDER TERMS OF THE DECEMBER 11 BILATERAL AGREEMENT, FOUR (OF SEVEN) BELL COMPANY CONTRACT EMPLOYEES REPORTED IN APRIL TO BEGIN WORK AT THE HANGAR FACILITIES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S AERO SERVICES DIVISION. THE TEAM WILL BE IN MEXICO FOR 18 MONTHS TO SET UP AND TRAIN THE GOM IN OPERATING A SYSTEMATIC MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY PROGRAM FOR THE AG'S HELICOPTER AND FIXED WING FLEET.

D. ONE OF THE MOST TROUBLESOME SUPPLY PROBLEMS IN THE 1975 ERADICATION CAMPAIGN WAS THE DELAY IN DISTRIBUTING USG-SUPPLIED WEAPONS TO THE FIELD. THIS PROBLEM, AND THE GOM'S COMMENTS, WERE DESCRIBED IN MEXICO 3778.

E. IN MID-APRIL AMBASSADOR JOVA VISITED DEA'S EL PASO INTELLIGENCE CENTER (EPIC), AS WELL AS THE DEA EL PASO DISTRICT OFFICE.

F. IN APRIL WE SUPPLIED REQUESTED INFORMATION FOR USE IN THE FY 76 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION (MEXICO 330).

G. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO THE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTION THAT THREE AID OFFICERS AND ONE LOCAL-HIRE SECRETARY BE ADDED TO STRENGTHEN THE EMBASSY'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MEXICO 3161).

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H. ON APRIL 7 AMBASSADOR JOVA PROMULGATED GUIDELINES FOR DEA OPERATIONS IN MEXICO. BELIEVING THAT THEY WOULD REGULARIZE DEA WORK AND REDOUND TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL CONCERNED, HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT THEY BE APPLIED TO THE OPERATIONS OF DEA BORDER OFFICES WITHIN MEXICO 26-KILOMETER BORDER ZONE. DEA WASHINGTON'S RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING AND POSITIVE. (SEE MEXICO 3008, MEXICO 3468 AND MEXICO 3574).

I. THE MEXICAN PRESS GAVE GOOD COVERAGE TO THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA INTELLIGENCE NET, HELD THE END OF APRIL IN SAN DIEGO. ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED WERE THE AWARDS AND PRAISE GIVEN BY DEA OFFICIALS TO THEIR MEXICAN COUNTERPARTS IN RECOGNITION OF MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ANTI-CONFIDENTIAL

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NARCOTICS EFFORT.

J. IN A MOVE TO CENTRALIZE SCATTERED FACILITIES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, ON APRIL 24, DEDICATED NEW OFFICES OF THE PROCURADURIA IN THE PINO SUAREZ BUILDING COMPLEX. HIS OFFICE, AND MOST OF THOSE ALREADY IN THE SAN JUAN LETRAN HEAD-QUARTERS, WILL REMAIN WHERE THEY ARE.

K. COMPLAINTS WERE VOICED IN THE PRESS CONCERNING DRUG ADDICTION IN POPULAR PLAZA GARIBALDI AND IN MEXICO CITY'S POVERTY-STRICKEN TLALNEPANTLA SUBURB.

L. THE MEXICAN CENTER FOR DRUG DEPENDENCE RESEARCH (CEMEF) AND THE NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE ON THE TECHNICAL AND UNIVERSITY LEVELS TO LAUNCH AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG ABUSE.

2. GOM ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES

1.25 KG HEROIN SEIZED IN CIUDAD JUAREZ; 4 ARRESTED.

2. TONS MARIJUANA TAKEN AT VERACRUZ; 5 ARRESTED.

2.5 KG COCAINE SEIZED AT MEXICO CITY AIRPORT; U.S.

CITIZEN ARRESTED.

10. OZ. HEROIN, VARIOUS WEAPONS AND VEHICLES SEIZED

IN PIEDRAS NEGRAS; 2 ARRESTS.

700 GM. COCAINE TAKEN AT MEXICO CITY AIRPORT; U.S. CITIZEN

ARRESTED.

4. KG. COCAINE SEIZED IN CIUDAD JUAREZ; 3 ARRESTS.

15.011 KG. HEROIN, 1.79 KG. COCAINE AND 100,000 MINI-

BENNIES SEIZED IN TIJUANA; 7 ARRESTED. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

LATER ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF 52 PERSONS, INCLUDING ROBERTO AND JESUS BELTRAN FELIX AND MANUEL CHAVEZ NAGERA, OWNER OF AN AIR TAXI SERVICE. 8 AIRCRAFT SEIZED.

1.150 KG HEROIN, 1.615 KG COCAINE SEIZED IN TIJUANA; 9 ARRESTS.

3 KG OPIUM BASE TAKEN IN CUERNAVACA; 3 ARRESTED.

208,000 AMPHETAMINES, 40,000 BARBITURATES SEIZED IN CIUDAD JUAREZ; 5 ARRESTED.

525 GM HEROIN TAKEN AT CIUDAD JUAREZ; 3 ARRESTS.

2,000 LBS MARIJUANA BURNED IN AIRCRAFT CRASH IN VERACRUZ;
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TWO U.S. CITIZENS KILLED.

4. KG HEROIN SEIZED IN MONTERREY; 3 ARRESTS.

B. INDEPENDENT MEXICAN OPERATIONS

23,500 MINI-BENNIES SEIZED IN TIJUANA; ONE ARREST.

8 KG OPIUM SEIZED IN UNSPECIFIED LOCATION; 3 ARRESTS.

325,000 PILLS SEIZED IN UNSPECIFIED LOCATION; 1 ARREST.

3.101 KG COCAINE TAKEN AT CHIAPAS FRONTIER; 1 ARRESTED.

3 TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED NEAR ENSENADA; ONE ARREST.

3.1 TONS MARIJUANA TAKEN IN TOPOLOBAMPO, SINALOA; NO ARRESTS.

1.509 KG COCAINE, SEIZED AT MEXICO CITY AIRPORT; ONE ARREST.

280 GM HEROIN TAKEN IN TIJUANA; 5 ARRESTS.

1.5 TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED IN ABANDONED TRUCK AT CIUDAD VICTORIA.

4. HEROIN JAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN CULIACAN; HEROIN REFINING
CHEMICALS CONFISCATED.

1.2 TONS MARIJUANA TAKEN AT SONORA ROADBLOCK; 5 ARRESTS.

4. KG COCAINE SEIZED AT CIUDAD JUAREZ AIRPORT; 3 ARRESTED.

190 KG PEYOTE TAKEN IN COAHUILA; 1 MEXICAN, 2 U.S. CITIZENS
ARRESTED.

7 KG OPIUM GUM SEIZED IN JALISCO; 6 ARRESTED.

4 KG OPIUM GUM SEIZED IN MAGDALENA, JALISCO; 2 ARRESTS.

1/2 TON MARIJUANA CONFISCATED IN CIUDAD JUAREZ; 5 ARRESTS.

6 KG HEROIN SEIZED IN TIJUANA; 1 ARREST, LEADING TO
BELTRAN CASE (ABOVE).

3.5 KG COCAINE TAKEN AT TALISMAN, CHIAPAS FRONTIER; 1 ARREST.

9. KG COCAINE SEIZED IN TAPACHULA (CHIAPAS) AND VERACRUZ;
TWO ARRESTED.

600 GM HEROIN CAPTURED IN CIUDAD JUAREZ; 3 ARRESTS.

LARGE QUANTITY OF MARIJUANA SEIZED IN GUADLAJARA, ALONG WITH
ARMS AND AMMUNITION; 12 ARRESTS.

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3. MONTHLY STATISTICAL WRAPUP (OFFICIAL GOM)

(FOR CUMULATIVE STATISTICS, JAN 1, THROUGH APRIL 30,
SEE MEXICO 4151.)

OPIUM

FIELDS DESTROYED	1.807
AREA IN SQUARE METERS	5,865,748 M2
OPIUM GUM	22.8 KG
SEEDS	15.8 KG
HEROIN	29.68 KG
MORPHINE	---

COCAINE 22.37 KG

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DANGEROUS DRUGS

AMPHETAMINES	423,163 TABLETS
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HALUCINOGENS

PEYOTE	93 KG
LIQUID Mescaline	100 LITERS

MARIJUANA

FIELDS DESTROYED	288
AREA IN SQUARE METERS	947,561 M2
MARIJUANA (DRY) SEIZED	24.444 TONS
SEED	189.8 KG
HASHISH	--

AIRCRAFT SEIZED	3
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AUTOMOBILES AND TRUCKS	60
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ARRESTS

FOREIGNERS (MOSTLY US)	18
MEXICAN NATIONALS	231

(NOTE: OFFICAL GOM APRIL SEIZURE STATISTICS FOR HEROIN AND OPIUM ACCORD CLOSELY WITH THE EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL COMPILATION BASED ON DEA REPORTS AND PRESS ACCOUNTS. THERE ARE OTHER DISCREPANCIES, HOWEVER: (A) THE EIGHT AIRCRAFT SEIZED IN THE BIG TIJUANA CASE ARE NOT REFLECTED IN THE GOM STATISTICS; (B) OFFICIAL FIGURES FOR AMPHETAMINE SEIZURES ARE ABOUT 20,000 LESS THAN THE UNOFFICIAL ONES; AND (C) OFFICIALLY REPORTED COCAINE SEIZURES ARE SOME 9 KG. LESS THAN OUR UNOFFICIAL COMPILATIONS. IT MAY BE THAT THE AIRCRAFT SEIZURES WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE MAY STATISTICS. AS FOR (B) AND (C), THE DISCREPANCIES ARE MOST LIKELY DUE TO DUPLICATION OF REPORTING IN THE PRESS, BUT WE WILL NOT KNOW UNTIL THE GOM RELEASES ITS MAY STATISTICS.) JOVA

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